



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

21

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/545,998

04/10/00

GORMAN

2

TXCA12K1B

028008

HM12/0921

EXAMINER

DNAX RESEARCH INSTITUTE
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
901 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
PALO ALTO CA 94304

SCM/ADRON, E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED:

09/21/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademark

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/545,998

Applicant(s)

Gorman et al.

Examiner

Ron Schwadron, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/30/2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 1-5, 8-11, 13-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 6,7 and 12 in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that are stated in said paper. This is not found persuasive because of the following reasons.

Regarding applicants comments on page 2 of the instant amendment, the M.P.E.P. § 803 (July 1998, page 800-4) states that: "For purposes of the initial requirement, a serious burden on the examiner may be *prima facie* shown if the examiner shows by appropriate explanation either separate classification, separate status in the art, or a different field of search". The restriction requirement enunciated in the previous Office Action meets this criterion and therefore establishes that serious burden is placed on the Examiner by the searching of additional Group III. Inventions II and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as reagent in an immunoassay. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 1-5,8-11,13-22 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to non-elected inventions, the requirement having been traversed in Paper No. 4.

3. Claims 6,7 and 12 are under consideration. Claim 12 is under consideration only as reading on a kit comprising an antibody (eg. the elected invention).

4. The statement claiming priority to 60/023,419 and 60/027901 disclosed in the specification, page 1, lines 4 and 5 is defective. The statement should read "This application claims priority to Provisional Applications Serial No. 60/023,419, filed August 16, 1996 and Serial No. 60/027,901, filed October, 1996".

The status of parent application 08/911423 needs to be updated (eg. now US Patent 6111090) in page 1 of the specification.

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 6,7,12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification does not provide adequate written description of the claimed invention. The legal standard for sufficiency of a patent's (or a specification's) written description is whether that description "reasonably conveys to the artisan that the inventor had possession at that time of the . . . claimed subject matter", *Vas-Cath, Inc. V. Mahurkar*, 19 U.S.P.Q.2d 1111 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the instant case, the specification does not convey to the artisan that the applicant had possession at the time of invention of the claimed peptides.

The instant claims encompass an antibody which binds a variant 312C2 peptide or a 312C2 peptide from any species of animal. The claims encompass antibodies which bind 312C2 peptides from any mammalian species. There are thousands of different mammalian species. There are untold numbers of variants encompassed by the 312C2 variant recited in the claims. The specification provides a description of antibodies which bind 312C2 protein derived from human or mice with SEQ. ID. 2 or 4 respectively. Thus, the written description provided in the specification is not commensurate with the scope of the claimed inventions. In view of the aforementioned problems regarding description of the claimed invention, the specification does not provide an adequate written description of the invention claimed herein. See *The Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly and Company*, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1404-7 (Fed. Cir. 1997). In *University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co.*, 39 U.S.P.Q.2d 1225 (Fed. Cir. 1995) the inventors claimed a genus of DNA species encoding insulin in different vertebrates or mammals, but had only described a single species of cDNA which encoded rat insulin. The court held that only the nucleic acids species described in the specification (i.e. nucleic acids encoding rat insulin) met the description requirement and that the inventors were not entitled to a claim encompassing a genus of nucleic acids encoding insulin from other vertebrates, mammals or humans, *id.* at 1240. In the instant case, the specification has disclosed antibodies which bind

312C2 protein derived from human or mice with SEQ. ID. 2 or 4 respectively, while claiming antibodies which bind 312C2 protein of any species of animal or countless variants. The Federal Circuit has held that if an inventor is "unable to envision the detailed constitution of a gene so as to distinguish it from other materials. . .conception has not been achieved until reduction to practice has occurred", *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co, Ltd.*, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1016 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Attention is also directed to the decision of *The Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly and Company* (CAFC, July 1997) wherein is stated: The description requirement of the patent statute requires a description of an invention, not an indication of a result that one might achieve if one made that invention. See *In re Wilder*, 736 F.2d 1516, 222 USPQ 369, 372-373 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (affirming rejection because the specification does "little more than outlin[e] goals appellants hope the claimed invention achieves and the problems the invention will hopefully ameliorate."). Accordingly, naming a type of material generally known to exist, in the absence of knowledge as to what that material consists of, is not a description of that material.

Thus, as we have previously held, a cDNA is not defined or described by the mere name "cDNA," even if accompanied by the name of the protein that it encodes, but requires a kind of specificity usually achieved by means of the recitation of the sequence of nucleotides that make up the cDNA. See *Fiers*, 984 F.2d at 1171, 25 USPQ2d at 1606.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 6,7,12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 is indefinite in that it depends from a nonelected invention. Claim 7 is indefinite in that parts f) and g) are drawn to compositions while the invention of claim 7 is a compound (eg. an antibody). Claims 6,7,12 are indefinite in the recitation of "312C2" because it is unclear what this means or encompasses. The specification defines "mouse 312C2" in the context of SEQ. ID. no. 2 and "human 312C2" in the context of SEQ. ID. no. 4 (see page 19, penultimate paragraph, wherein the mouse or human 312C2 has the aforementioned sequence or is highly

homologous to said sequence). However, there is no definition of the term "highly homologous" in the specification and it is unclear what this term means or encompasses. It is unclear if said term refers to structural or functional homology or what degree of homology is "highly" versus not so highly. In addition, there is no definition of the term "312C2" per se. For example, what parameters define gerbil 312C2 or spider monkey 312C2 or mammalian 312C2 per se.

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

10. Claims 6,7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Cocks et al. (Nature).

While the term 312C2 is indefinite for the reasons elucidated above, for the purposes of this rejection it will be interpreted as encompassing a "highly homologous" mouse protein to that actually disclosed in the specification. Cocks et al. teach a protein called SLAM (see abstract and Figure 2) encompassed by the term "mouse 312C2" in that is "highly homologous" to said protein (eg. it is functionally similar in that it is found on activated T cells and it consists of amino acids wherein the majority of amino acids are found in SEQ. ID. no. 2). Cocks et al. teach a monoclonal antibody which binds said protein (see Figure 1). The kit comprising the antibody is the antibody disclosed in Figure 1 contained in the container which it resided before addition to the assay disclosed in Figure 1.

11. No claims is allowed.

12. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 at (703) 308-4242.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

Serial No. 09/545998
Art Unit 1644

6

should be directed to Dr. Ron Schwadron whose telephone number is (703) 308-4680. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00. A message may be left on the examiners voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



RONALD B. SCHWADRON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800 (600)

Ron Schwadron, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1644
September 20, 2001